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tatives. Before and since the disaster the attention of these three nations with that of their neighbors has been centred on Samoa and the men-of-war—waiting to see what would take place.

The Lord who “hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the dust of whose feet are the clouds,” (Nahum) seemed in the disaster, to say to these intelligent and professedly Christian governments: “The way for Christian nations to settle this or any other dispute is not by your men-of-war, and, since you force me to the rough manner of deciding questions, I will take you on your own grounds, but, taking sides with none but against any and all who resort to carnal weapons to settle disputes, I will ‘rebuke’ your warlike movements with a storm, even as I did once ‘break the ships of Tarshish with an East wind,’ that you may settle your quarrels, if not on the high ground of Christianity, then by arbitration.” As Paul delivered the incorrigible Hymeneus and Alexander unto Satan that they might learn not to blaspheme, so the Lord delivers warring nations over to Satan or to each other that they may learn at heavy cost of blood and treasure that wisdom is better than weapons of war.—*Christian Neighbor.*

MASSACHUSETTS STATE BOARD OF ARBITRATION.

A neatly printed and finely bound volume of 90 pages records the beneficial work of the above named officials for 1888. The Board cost the State \$8,602.30 out of an appropriation of \$10,300. It was called to arbitrate in nearly 50 cases. The annual payment for wages in these establishments amounts to \$5,735,992 annually; just how much money was saved to workmen and employers by abating or preventing strikes cannot be accurately stated. But that the pecuniary investment is a good one for the State cannot be doubted. The moral influence has been altogether good.

This agency, although little was expected of it at first, has proved to be one of real value, and it may now fairly be regarded as a permanent feature of our State government. The good position which the board has won for itself in the esteem both of employers and employees is illustrated by the following statement, which we quote from the report:

It is a significant and gratifying fact that recently a practice has arisen in some of the largest shoe factories of the State, of employers and employees joining in a written agreement to submit to this board all disputes that may arise concerning the business, which the parties themselves may be unable to adjust, and thus to assure the uninterrupted progress of the work while differences are being considered and settled with justice to all. This agreement is made part of the contract of hiring, and applies to all who work in the factory.

I have labored in China and for China for over thirty years, and I am profoundly convinced that opium is doing more evil in China in a week than the missions are doing good in a year.—*J. Hudson Taylor.*

Hear the words of an English missionary: “If the African be the image of God carved in ebony, the white liquor dealer of the Congo is the image of the devil carved in ivory.”—*Rev. W. Allen.*

HOW CHURCHES CHANGE LAWS.

A striking illustration of the value of promoting a needed reform through the churches is afforded by the history of the purity movement in Great Britain. Parliament had clandestinely passed a law for regulating prostitution, thereby recognizing it as a lawful calling, if carried on in obedience to these regulations. This law raised a somewhat novel question in ethics, and as soon as the public became aware, in the autumn of 1869, that such a law had been passed, a strong protest was raised, The Society of Friends, at its yearly meeting in May, 1870, recorded a minute condemning the law. The Wesleyans followed, at their Conference, in 1871. One after another, the Congregationalists, the Baptists, and the Presbyterians joined in the same protest in succeeding years. Many influential members of the Church of England protested as individuals, but before Convocation could be brought to record its judgment, public opinion had gathered such overwhelming strength that the government was forced, in 1886, though reluctantly, to repeal the obnoxious law. Through the churches, the Messiah’s Kingdom had triumphed over the world.—*Messiah’s Kingdom.*

WE ARE DEBTORS.

A debt to others is found in the field of education. We have had not ten, but a thousand teachers. Indeed, even the teacher is himself taught by his pupils. A client has been known to give valuable suggestions to his attorney; a patient to his physician; a parishioner to his pastor. What is education? It is, we say, in part, the stocking of the mind with fresh facts and truths. It is also the calling out from the mind its own stores and susceptibilities of skill and power. But in both cases, whether education be the acquirement of information, or the development of power, we are indebted to others for it. You have yourself studied hard, it is true; but what would your study have availed without books, without teachers, without instruments, without schools? We speak of “self-made” men; no man really is a self-made man. If there were one he probably would be very poorly made. Of course we know what the phrase means, but, in the instance of the best approximation to the self-made man you know, the phrase is far wide of the mark. The very language which that man employs, the models he copies, the tools he uses, the rules he follows, in fact, his whole equipment, personal and environing, is really the product mainly of somebody else for him. Centuries help the newsboy to earn five cents on the street corner. Continents have combined to furnish the bouquet which the flower girl sells at the ferry door.—*Sermon by Rev. A. J. Lyman.*

President Harrison has issued a proclamation inviting the people of the United States to resort to their houses of worship on Tuesday, April 30, at 9 A. M. to praise Almighty God for past blessings and pray for his continued favor upon our beloved country which will be one hundred years old that day if we count from the beginning of the Presidency of George Washington when New York was the Capital of the United States. How much more solemn, impressive and appropriate a really devout service of this kind than the military parades and fashionable ball at New York where the best Burgundy wine is claimed as a great attraction!